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Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 19
Economic and social development in Western Asia

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Overall orientation

19.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development through effective economic and social policies and enhanced cooperation among the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and with other countries, giving special consideration to the least developed and conflict-stricken countries. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

19.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) and 1985/69, establishing ESCWA and amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV), the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and foster partnerships with them through the lead role of the Commission in the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

19.3 More recently, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), emphasized that "regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions" (see para. 100).

19.4 Furthermore, in December 2012 the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/226, concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In the resolution, the Assembly recognized "the contribution of the regional commissions as well as interregional, regional and subregional cooperation to addressing development challenges related to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals" (see para. 144). It also requested "the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives, at the request of the programme countries, and to support measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels". It urged regional commissions "to prioritize sustainable development initiatives at the country level through, inter alia, more efficient and effective capacity-building, development and implementation of regional agreements and arrangements addressing the regional and subregional dimensions of national development goals and the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned" (see para. 150).

19.5 As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the results of the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda, and to support regional sustainable development by addressing economic, social and environmental policy gaps in its member countries.

19.6 Since late 2010, the political landscape of the ESCWA region has experienced dramatic transformations with the increasing demands by citizens for freedom and social justice. ESCWA will play a crucial and unique role in assisting member countries in addressing current policy weaknesses and enhancing their capacities to achieve equitable growth and development. ESCWA will provide a

forum for member countries to discuss and share views on economic, social and sustainable development issues in the region.

19.7 The mandates resulting from the post-2015 development agenda will have a considerable impact on the work of ESCWA in the biennium 2016-2017.

19.8 To address regional and global priorities shaping up in the development agenda beyond 2015, ESCWA engaged in an extensive process of internal consultations for this proposed strategic framework to ensure that it will contribute to its four-year vision (2015-2019).

19.9 ESCWA will focus on equitable and sustainable development in the region. The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on three strategic pillars serving as mainstays for work to be implemented on eight priority areas. The 2016-2017 strategic framework reflects the activities of ESCWA in a fully integrated manner.

19.10 The three strategic pillars are: inclusive development; regional integration; and good governance and resilience.

19.11 Through its work on inclusive development, ESCWA will focus on three priority areas: social justice; knowledge economy and employment; and sustainable natural resources.

19.12 In the area of social justice, ESCWA will promote development and poverty eradication strategies measured not only by growth in economic activity and income, but also by their ability to guarantee decent employment commensurate with the skills, capacity and aspirations of the population and equal access to, and benefit from, resources based on the principles of equity, including equity across generations. ESCWA will support member countries in ensuring that social inclusion and integration guide policy and institutional development, making certain that there is equal access to decision-making processes, to social services and social protection including social assistance to provide relief from poverty and deprivation and social insurance to cushion vulnerable groups against risks, and to information and resources. Special consideration will be given to the needs of least developed countries in the region and the impacts that changes in population dynamics may have on achieving these goals. Under knowledge economy and employment, ESCWA will pay special attention to promoting the transfer of technology to increase the competitiveness of economies in the region through value-added industrial development, while making effective and efficient use of human and natural resources. Concerning sustainable natural resources, ESCWA will focus its work on promoting integrated management to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of resource consumption through the use of new technologies and innovation, thus maximizing the impact that the use of these resources has on income generation and job creation.

19.13 Under regional integration, ESCWA will focus on two priority areas: policy coherence; and agreements and strategies. Although regional integration has the potential to boost production and income and help Arab countries in addressing the twin problems of poverty and unemployment, economic integration among Arab countries lags behind that in other regions.

19.14 The secretariat will continue to work closely with the League of Arab States, regional partners and member countries to enhance the formulation of intraregional,

forum for member countries to discuss and share views on economic, social and sustainable development issues in the region.

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donors, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member countries.

19.22 Building on its special relationship with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will support the articulation of regional positions on issues of global and regional concern, and to advance a rights-based sustainable development agenda that has social justice at its heart. It will also continue to convene the Regional Coordination Mechanism as a platform for United Nations entities working in the region to discuss regional policy priorities.

19.23 Mobilizing additional financial and in-kind contributions will be important to ensure that ESCWA can disseminate and operationalize the findings and recommendations of its normative work and respond effectively to the requests of its member countries. To do so, ESCWA will leverage the results and outputs of its regular programme of work and the strategic partnerships it builds across the region.

19.24 Through subprogramme 5, Statistics for evidence-based policymaking, ESCWA has taken the lead and established partnerships with regional and national statistical organizations, and has pursued coordinated efforts towards improved statistical information.

19.25 The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) asserted the need for comparable, reliable statistics on sustainable development. Member countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, have supported the regional commissions in collecting and compiling official statistics. Member countries have also committed to mobilizing financial resources and building the capacity of developing countries to produce statistical data related to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

19.26 As a leader of the Statistics Coordination Taskforce of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA will promote coordination of statistical activities among national statistical offices and international organizations active in the region. ESCWA has also put in place an internal coordination mechanism to harmonize statistical information used in its publications and studies.

19.27 Promoting gender equality and the rights of women is a core element in meeting development objectives. It requires a systematic and comprehensive focus on the different needs, power relations and access to resources of men and women throughout all processes.

19.28 ESCWA will assist member countries in eliminating gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislations and programmes. Through the provision of technical and advisory services, ESCWA supports national and regional efforts to overcome all forms of discrimination against women to achieve the advancement of women and to secure their equal access to resources and participation in decision-making.

19.29 Furthermore, ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective into its entire programme of work. It will continue to be at the forefront in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women, endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in October 2006.

19.30 In addition to its analytical and normative work, ESCWA will provide technical cooperation support in line with the articulated needs of its member

countries paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, while promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. It will act as a facilitator for the exchange of knowledge and information by providing a forum for networking and multilateral dialogue on regional and global development issues. Similarly, lessons derived from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the commitment of the United Nations to encourage and support evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

19.31 The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement used below are intended to measure direct impacts of the work of ESCWA on its stakeholders.

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: To achieve the integrated management of natural resources leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream sustainable development goals into regional and national policy processes

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member countries mainstream appropriate goals related to sustainable development into national multisectoral strategies and action plans for the integrated management of natural resources including tools for measuring, monitoring and reporting	(a) (i) Increased number of multisectoral institutional mechanisms established to follow up on goals related to sustainable development (ii) Increased number of harmonized methodologies for measuring sustainable development targets and indicators adopted at the sector level in member countries (iii) Increased number of strategies, plans and policies adopted by line ministries to support the integrated management of natural resources
(b) Member countries adopt platforms and resolutions on regional cooperation on shared water resources, energy networks and environmental sustainability to improve food, water and energy security	(b) (i) Increased number of regional or subregional platforms developed to improve cooperation on food, water and energy (ii) Increased number of intergovernmental resolutions and recommendations adopted to enhance regional cooperation on environmental sustainability

	(iii) Increased number of harmonized tools, techniques and guidelines implemented by member countries for food, water and energy security
(c) Member countries develop coordinated policies, strategies and frameworks for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience and respond to the impact of natural and human-made crises	(c) Increased number of recommendations, resolutions and decrees adopted by member countries that aim to coordinate responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction

Strategy

19.32 The Sustainable Development and Productivity Division will implement the subprogramme. The interrelated and complex challenges and current social and political tensions provide a sense of urgency for concerted efforts to strengthen the interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Regional challenges include rise in demand for food, water and energy, leading to unsustainable use of resources and food insecurity; unsustainable production and consumption patterns; and inefficient energy use in key productive and consuming sectors, as well as climate change and its impact on natural resources.

19.33 The implementation of the subprogramme will support countries to move towards a more sustainable development path by implementing and following up on the outcomes of major United Nations summits; strengthening capacities in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and plans; advocating the integration of policies on water, energy and food; facilitating regional cooperation and coordination for greater food, water and energy security; and assisting member countries to develop mechanisms for coordinated responses to climate change and other natural crises.

19.34 ESCWA will:

(a) Advocate for and raise awareness of global and regional commitments, particularly the sustainable development related goals, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and other Arab strategies and action plans for the integrated management of resources, climate change and disaster risk reduction;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues and priorities towards forging regional positions and perspectives based on the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practice;

(c) Support member countries in their efforts to improve the efficient use of natural resources by analysing performance in these sectors, providing policy recommendations, promoting the application of appropriate green technologies, and encouraging the integrated management of resources;

(d) Facilitate regional cooperation and coordination as a means to enhance food, water and energy security and alleviate poverty in rural areas;

(e) Support the development of national or regional mechanisms, networks or help desks for the integration of the different pillars of sustainable development;

(f) Foster regional approaches on climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to deal with climate change impacts, and examine impact and vulnerability assessments, and associated socioeconomic and environmental issues to inform the policymaking processes, and to support member countries in their negotiations.

19.35 This will be achieved through servicing intergovernmental bodies; conducting high-quality policy-oriented research and analytical work on the science-policy interface; organizing high-level and expert meetings; providing advisory services; implementing field projects, supporting dedicated knowledge platforms for professionals; and issuing technical materials to enhance capacity to address sustainable development issues and challenges.

19.36 Work under the subprogramme will strive to maximize synergies through collaboration with different United Nations agencies, regional commissions and organizations, and participation in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water resources and energy, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

Subprogramme 2
Social development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of member countries to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member countries develop rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social cohesion, social inclusion, social protection and the provision of adequate social services for all	(a) (i) Increased number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to improve social protection or expand the provision of social services (ii) Increased number of policies, programmes and measures formulated or enhanced to ensure the social integration of vulnerable groups
(b) Member countries are engaged in a regional consensus-building process on international migration towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration and foster intraregional coordination and cooperation	(b) (i) Increased number of instances where ESCWA facilitated or promoted policy dialogue on international migration between Governments of member countries (ii) Increased number of policies that reflect awareness of the regional development opportunities and challenges of international migration

(c) Member countries adopt a participatory approach to social policy formulation and implementation through consensus building, the empowerment of civil society and the engagement of civic groups and other stakeholders in advocating the values and tools necessary to achieving a just society	(c) (i) Increased number of instances in which representatives of governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders engage in substantive policy dialogue with the support of ESCWA (ii) Number of governmental and non-governmental institutions making use of the knowledge and tools generated by ESCWA on participatory development and civic engagement, in their development initiatives

Strategy

19.37 This subprogramme is implemented by the Social Development Division. During the biennium 2016-2017, ESCWA will build on the experience gained during the previous bienniums to advocate the principles of social justice as a guiding framework for public policymaking. Specific attention will be paid to: promoting and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and social protection and address the social dimensions of poverty; mainstreaming key population and human development issues into policymaking, focusing on youth development and international migration; upholding participatory development and civic engagement; and addressing the social dimension of the post-2015 global development agenda.

19.38 The adoption of equitable, inclusive and consensus-based development policies is central to achieving social justice. In the ESCWA region, however, social policies have been geared towards assistance rather than development, and most have failed to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, informal workers and the poor. At the same time, little attention has been devoted to the opportunities presented by age-structural changes witnessed across the region. These policy deficits are exacerbated by the absence or weakness of participatory frameworks to fully engage civil society in the decision-making process.

19.39 As a result, despite regional progress on a number of human development indicators, inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion have increased and have played a considerable role in triggering the popular movements that some Arab countries witnessed during this decade.

19.40 To address those development deficits, the Division will undertake normative analysis to support social policy reform through regional consultations and technical cooperation activities, including advisory services, capacity-building workshops and field projects. ESCWA will continue to act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on key social development areas within and beyond the Arab region. Partnerships and cooperation will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Objective of the Organization: To achieve a decent standard of living for all people in Member States, through sustained, inclusive and integrated regional economic development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member countries reform economic institutions and develop and implement policies based on principles of good governance in order to enable economic planning and policymaking in support of inclusive and sustainable development	(a) (i) Number of member countries that commit to or pass regulatory reforms or legislation related to the improvement of governance in economic institutions (ii) Increased number of policies adopted by member countries related to good economic governance that are based on the ESCWA framework of assistance on good economic governance (iii) Number of member countries that improve their rating on established national and/or international indicators for good economic governance (such as business environment scorecards, open budget survey, and the World Bank's "ease of doing business" index) (iv) Number of member countries that use and implement the models advocated by ESCWA to prepare national development strategies for evidence-based policy dialogue
(b) Member countries design and implement pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based economic plans and policies towards eradicating poverty and reducing income inequality	(b) (i) Number of member countries that adopt plans and policies that promote new methods of monitoring poverty (ii) Increased number of pro-poor, rights- and evidence-based plans designed and implemented
(c) National policymaking institutions develop evidence-based tools to create decent and competitive jobs for men and women	(c) (i) Number of member countries that design and incorporate an employment agenda into their national development planning mechanisms (ii) Number of member countries requesting and receiving ESCWA support in developing knowledge-based economic strategies and policies to reduce unemployment

(d) Member countries and regional institutions develop policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence	(d) (i) Number of member countries taking steps towards coordinating their fiscal and monetary policies (ii) Number of member countries that set up a mechanism for the coordination of fiscal policies
(e) Member countries and regional institutions develop plans and policies for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation	(e) (i) Number of member countries that improve in major logistic performance indicators (ii) Number of member countries that adopt or develop plans or programmes containing new measures articulated in the trade facilitation agreement of the World Trade Organization (iii) Number of member countries that adopt the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq agreements and create national committees for transport and trade facilitation

Strategy

19.41 The Economic Development and Globalization Division is responsible for the subprogramme. The legislative mandates for this subprogramme are: the 2013 report of the Secretary-General on global economic governance and development (A/67/769), the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and ESCWA.

19.42 ESCWA will promote equitable growth and sustainability, regional integration and economic governance by supporting member countries in reforming economic institutions and developing and implementing policies based on good governance; designing and implementing pro-poor rights and evidence-based economic plans and policies; working towards creating and improving access to decent and competitive jobs for men and women; fostering policies and implementation mechanisms towards economic policy convergence; and enhancing regional integration.

19.43 The main directives of the subprogramme in the biennium 2016-2017 are the needs and demands of the populations of the region. The primary concern of the Arab region is the promotion of decent employment opportunities in an equitable knowledge economy that is based on good governance and poverty eradication.

19.44 Regional integration accompanied by evidence-based planning is highly needed to enhance regional economic development. Efforts will focus on the implementation of intraregional and international agreements on trade and transport, and the establishment of well-coordinated fiscal, investment and monetary policies.

19.45 To achieve the above, activities will be focused on the development and use of economic analysis and forecasting tools such as macroeconomic models that enable sound policy recommendations; research leading to ESCWA flagship publications; and the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building based on the individual needs of member countries.

19.46 Work will be carried out in close coordination with relevant stakeholders in member countries, particularly governments, development partners, including international financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Existing and new partnerships with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies, the League of Arab States, academic institutions, and international and regional organizations will be strengthened.

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

Objective of the Organization: To promote inclusive and sustainable development by building an information society and knowledge economy in ESCWA member countries that leverage technology and innovation in accordance with the regional development requirements and the outcomes of the internationally agreed development objectives

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member countries develop or update strategies and policies that leverage human resources, innovation and modern technology towards knowledge-based economy and information society as the new paradigm for employment and sustainable economic growth	(a) (i) Number of public institutions adopting strategies, road maps and/or solutions to foster technological innovation that enhance economic growth (ii) Number of member countries that develop or update strategies and policies that leverage information and communications technology (ICT) and innovation to enhance the impact on social and economic development
(b) Member countries coordinate implementation of harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology, innovation and ICT, to foster the development of regional platforms and services	(b) (i) Number of member countries implementing harmonized policies and/or legal and regulatory frameworks in science, technology and innovation and ICT (ii) Increased number of regional science, technology and innovation and ICT initiatives that aim to build a knowledge society and/or encourage complementary partnerships for economic development in the Arab region

(c) Public institutions deploy ICT policies and e-government services based on good governance principles, with focus on open government in general and e-participation in particular	(c) (i) Increased number of initiatives focusing on trends in e-government, such as open government and e-participation (ii) Number of public institutions deploying open government and e-government services

Strategy

19.47 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Information and Communication Technology Division. Technology and knowledge play a major role in the move towards a productive knowledge society. Recent technological advancements have modified the principles of economic growth and affected all economic sectors. The capacity of member countries to adapt and contribute to ever-accelerating changes in technology and knowledge varies significantly. With the continued monitoring and implementation of activities pertaining to various sustainable development initiatives such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on the Information Society, the World Summit on the Information Society plus 10, the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society and the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, work under the subprogramme will help and guide member countries in their transitions towards an information society and a knowledge economy.

19.48 To meet the development needs of member countries, ESCWA will produce analytical studies and policy recommendations, convene meetings, provide advisory services and implement development projects in partnership with national and regional stakeholders. The implementation of the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and foster partnerships aimed at harnessing research and development in technology, with an emphasis on ICT for socioeconomic development. The activities of the Division will act as catalysts for change in national and regional policymaking and will help member countries devise results-driven strategies. They will promote the adoption of comprehensive sets of measurement and indicators that will facilitate strategic decision-making and identify priority areas of policy action. The Division will also rely on feedback from member countries and on regional and global benchmarking exercises to assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress and evaluate the impact of technology on national and regional economies. To help the countries of the region take advantage of the opportunities presented by advancements in technology and knowledge, field projects undertaken by the Division will incorporate a social dimension, seek the active involvement of local communities, pay special attention to the employment needs of young people and advocate the empowerment of women.

19.49 More specifically, ESCWA will leverage technology to smooth the transition of the countries of the region towards knowledge economies and information society. It will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of technological sectors, creating enabling environments, promoting the development of innovative e-services and advocating the adoption and implementation of new trends in e-government, with a special emphasis on open government initiatives. The ESCWA Technology Centre will assist production sectors, universities and research centres in member

countries to acquire the tools and capabilities to adapt and develop suitable technologies that are critical to solving sustainability challenges. To make ICT widely accessible throughout the region, the division will encourage member countries to enhance ICT infrastructure, implement a regional telecommunications backbone and reduce the cost of access to broadband and mobile services.

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional and national statistical systems for the production and dissemination of quality statistics for evidence-based policies for inclusive and sustainable development, regional integration and improved governance

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) National statistical offices implement methodologies in line with good practices and international standards and recommendations	(a) (i) Number of ESCWA member countries that adopted, with the assistance of ESCWA, new or revised international statistical standards, including the System of National Accounts and foundational socioeconomic classifications
	(ii) Increased number of assistance/capacity-building activities related to implementing international standards and recommendations provided by ESCWA upon the request of member countries
(b) Stakeholders make greater use of quality statistics and methodological studies produced and disseminated by ESCWA	(b) (i) Increased number of queries to ESCWA online statistical databases
	(ii) Increased number of citations and references to ESCWA statistical databases and publications
(c) Regional and national statistical institutions adopt agreements and guidelines for harmonization and comparability of official statistics	(c) (i) Number of strategies adopted for the harmonization of statistics in the region reached between ESCWA and national statistical offices
	(ii) Increased number of agreements and guidelines developed under the auspices of ESCWA and adopted by the Statistical Committee of ESCWA or another statistical authority in the region

Strategy

19.50 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a continued need to improve the quality, relevance, availability

and comparability of statistics in the region. Those improvements must be made primarily within the national statistical systems of member countries.

19.51 Institutional development for official statistics will remain the first priority for ESCWA to enable member countries to produce quality statistics that will meet international standards and recommendations. This will include technical capacity development, building skills needed for statistical surveys and censuses and exchange of knowledge and good practices between member countries focusing primarily on: national accounts; short-term economic statistics; the 2020 round of population and housing censuses; living conditions, income and poverty; civil registration and vital statistics; environment and energy statistics; statistics on science and technology; gender statistics; and mainstreaming a gender perspective into all areas of statistics. ESCWA will also work with regional and global partners, including the League of Arab States, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

19.52 ESCWA will support member countries in improving their institutional set-up and legal framework for official statistics in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. ESCWA will also assist member countries in assessments of national statistical systems aimed at defining strategies for the development of statistics.

19.53 The second priority is the provision of data and analytical services to stakeholders in member countries, within ESCWA and in partner organizations. User-needs surveys and satisfaction surveys will be used to periodically assess the impact of data that the Division disseminates, and adjust the data collection and dissemination programme accordingly. Work under the subprogramme will focus on the collection of national statistical data released by member countries.

19.54 The Statistics Division is primarily responsible for the quality of data collected and released by ESCWA, while other divisions at ESCWA continue to collect specific statistical data needed for analysis and studies. Annual data collection plans will be used to coordinate data requests emanating from all divisions of ESCWA.

19.55 The third priority is the regional coordination and harmonization of subject-matter indicators. In cooperation with regional and national statistical institutions, ESCWA will work towards formulating consensus-based agreements and guidelines for the harmonization and comparability of official statistics. Under the auspices of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, this work will be delegated to advisory groups established under specific priority areas. ESCWA will then work with national statistical systems to implement the new methodologies and guidelines, developed through these advisory groups.

19.56 To enhance coherence across international statistical agencies, ESCWA will take active part in cooperation and coordination initiatives of the regional and global statistical systems.

19.57 In order to accomplish the strategy of the subprogramme, ESCWA will act as a centre of excellence and a forum to exchange views on statistical issues; provide training at the national, subregional and regional levels; work on data quality assurance, estimation techniques and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations, in cooperation with staff in national statistical offices; respond to requests for technical assistance; and assist in the exchange of expertise between member countries.

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

Objective of the Organization: To reduce gender imbalances, encourage exchange of lessons learned between member countries and contribute to increased respect of the rights of women in line with international conventions and conferences

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Member countries design and implement inclusive gender-sensitive strategies and plans towards the elimination of gender discrimination and violations of the economic and social rights of women	(a) (i) Increased number of inclusive gender-sensitive strategies designed with the assistance of ESCWA (ii) Increased number of inclusive gender-sensitive action plans implemented with the assistance of ESCWA
(b) Member countries collaborate on the development and implementation of regional frameworks that are in line with international conventions and conferences relevant to the rights of women and gender equality	(b) (i) Increased number of subregional or regional frameworks that are in line with international conventions, conferences and agreements (ii) Increased number of regional networks established with the assistance of ESCWA for collaboration and cooperation on women's issues
(c) Member countries establish institutional mechanisms that ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making processes	(c) (i) Increased number of established mechanisms, including yearly campaigns to increase access to decision-making processes (ii) Increased number of committees that include civil society organizations and national machineries for the advancement of women established with the assistance of ESCWA to collaborate on drafting national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Strategy

19.58 The responsibility for implementing subprogramme 6 lies with the Centre for Women. The Centre will continue to work closely with national women's machineries, national stakeholders, relevant United Nations entities, regional organizations and all divisions within ESCWA to address ongoing challenges that undermine women's social rights, their effective economic participation and their meaningful role in decision-making at all levels. Recent political developments in various Arab countries have also indicated the fragility of women's situation, prompting the necessity to protect acquired rights while enhancing women's involvement in post-conflict and transitional processes.

19.59 Drawing on established partnerships, previous achievements and the recommendations of the Committee on Women, particularly its sixth session, the implementation strategy of the Centre will be rooted in a three-pronged approach:

(a) Enhance regional synergy and collaboration among member countries to respond to the requirements of relevant international instruments and global agreements through regional and subregional frameworks, such as joint strategies, platforms, appeals, action plans and joint declarations. These frameworks will cover gender-related regional priorities, ranging from addressing early and forced marriage, female labour migration, women and knowledge society to harmful practices, and the needs of female refugees and women in conflict settings. Efforts will be made to promote the sharing of information about these regional frameworks with countries in the region;

(b) Support member countries in the design, development and implementation of national strategies, policies and legislations to eliminate gender discrimination in all socioeconomic and political domains. The Centre for Women will enhance national capacities to address gender-related gaps in the private sphere (for example, child marriage, domestic violence); in the economic sector (for example, access to financial resources; employment opportunities; job discrimination); and in the social domain (for example, gender-based violence, stereotypical representation of women and gender roles in the media);

(c) Enhance women's access to all levels of decision-making processes and their representation in governance structures, especially during times of conflict and occupation. This includes ensuring women's meaningful participation in executive, legislative, parliamentary and judicial bodies.

19.60 The Centre for Women will utilize available tools of evidence-based research, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, advocacy and networking, and monitoring and evaluation. High-quality deliverables (including in-depth studies, needs and impact assessments, policy briefs, situation analysis reports, training modules and technical materials) will be completed in the context of its normative work, technical support and advisory services. The subprogramme will continue to foster collaboration between relevant governmental bodies and national and regional stakeholders through the organization of expert group meetings, workshops, thematic conferences and commemoration of events relevant to women's rights and gender equality. It will also maintain cooperation with other United Nations entities, regional organizations, national and regional academic institutions and civil society organizations.

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

Objective of the Organization: To mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Public institutions develop governance strategies and policies to enhance their performance and service provision abilities, including developing nationally led and owned monitoring and analysis capacities, particularly in crisis-affected countries and least developed countries	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries seeking and receiving substantive and technical assistance related to the development of governance strategies and policies that aim to enhance the public sector's performance and service provision abilities (ii) Increased percentage of civil servants that report having benefited from the outputs and activities of ESCWA on the development of governance strategies and policies, including developing nationally led and owned monitoring and analysis capacities
(b) Member countries respond to development challenges associated with transformations in the region through the formulation of nationally led and owned suitable development strategies and policies	(b) (i) Increased percentage of civil servants participating in forums organized by ESCWA that report having benefited from ESCWA outputs on responding to challenges associated with transformations in the region (ii) Increased number of member countries initiating activities as a consequence of ESCWA outputs on addressing challenges associated with transformations in the region
(c) Public institutions develop or implement strategies for the mitigation of the negative direct impact of the Israeli occupation and crises, as well as its indirect ramifications on development in the region	(c) (i) Increased percentage of civil servants and civil society organization representatives participating in activities organized by ESCWA who report having benefited from its outputs dedicated to strengthening their abilities to carry out their respective developmental mandates and thereby mitigating the impact and repercussions of Israeli occupation

	(ii) Increased number of public institutions seeking and receiving substantive and technical assistance based on ESCWA outputs related to strengthening the development capabilities of the public sector so as to reduce the impact and repercussions of Israeli occupation on development in the region

Strategy

19.61 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Division for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues. The development process in the Arab region has been characterized by limited, poor-quality indicators of governance and socioeconomic development, particularly in countries that are directly or indirectly affected by crises or suffering from foreign occupation.

19.62 The political transformations witnessed in some countries since 2010, however, have indicated a public demand for better governance practices, including transparency, accountability and participation. At the same time, local and regional crises, the ongoing transformations in a number of member countries, the continuation of the Israeli occupation, and the repercussions of those on social and economic development in the region pose development and institutional challenges for member countries.

19.63 To achieve its expected accomplishments, the implementation of the subprogramme will focus on three main areas: (i) public institutions developing governance strategies and policies to enhance their performance and service provision abilities, particularly in crisis-affected countries and least developed countries; (ii) member countries responding to development challenges associated with transformations in the region through the formulation of nationally led and owned development strategies and policies; and (iii) public institutions developing strategies for the mitigation of the negative direct impact of the Israeli occupation and crises, as well as their indirect ramifications on development in the region.

19.64 To implement the first area, the Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division will identify and analyse good governance strategies and policies, monitor trends, identify gaps and adequate interventions, as well as global best practices that will enhance the performance of public institutions, placing them at the vanguard of development, particularly in crisis-afflicted countries and least developed countries. ESCWA will utilize the findings of this work to assist in identifying gaps and developmental priorities and enhancing implementation mechanisms across different tiers of government.

19.65 ESCWA will foster policy dialogues with concerned public institutions and experts to define strategies that benefit from national ownership and leadership and encourage participation and citizenship. Through meetings, advisory services, staff missions and research, ESCWA will promote institutional development strategies aiming to strengthen consensus-building mechanisms, including national dialogues and citizenship-based practices.

19.66 ESCWA will also monitor the socioeconomic consequences of crises, as well as the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and enhance awareness of its negative direct impact on Palestine and its indirect repercussions on the rest of the region. Furthermore, it will support the formulation of resilience strategies that aim to mitigate the impact of crises and the Israeli occupation on human development in Palestine and other countries that are affected directly or indirectly by occupation.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
64/1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
65/171	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
66/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
66/216	Women in development
66/223	Towards global partnerships
67/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
67/148	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
67/164	Human rights and extreme poverty
67/171	The right to development
67/220	Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
67/224	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
67/226	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
67/227	South-South cooperation
67/264	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
67/292	Multilingualism

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1818 (LV)	Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia
1985/69	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2005/50	The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
2008/8	Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
2010/38	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2012/1	Admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
2012/30	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2013/5	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2013/16	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2013/23	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session
2013/28	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2013/46	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

258 (XXIII)	Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
263 (XXIII)	Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
286 (XXV)	Gender statistics for equality and empowerment
289 (XXV)	Supporting the comprehensive development effort of Yemen

300 (XXVI)	Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
302 (XXVII)	Requests from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
308 (XXVII)	The regional dimension of development
311 (XXVII)	Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
312 (XXVII)	Evaluation of the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

64/292	The human right to water and sanitation
65/160	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
67/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
67/174	The right to food
67/203	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
67/209	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
67/215	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
67/228	Agriculture development and food security
67/231	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
67/263	Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level forum on sustainable development
67/291	Sanitation for all
68/6	Outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2012/27	Human settlements

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

281 (XXV)	Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region
305 (XXVII)	Sustainable development in the region and follow-up and implementation of the decisions of the Rio+20 Conference

Subprogramme 2
Social development

General Assembly resolutions

64/12	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
64/154	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto
65/170	International migration and development
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
66/121	Policies and programmes involving youth
66/122	Promoting social integration through social inclusion
66/125	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
67/139	Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons
67/141	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
67/143	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
67/172	Protection of migrants

67/219	International migration and development
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2010/12	Promoting social integration
2010/14	Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

295 (XXVI)	Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development
304 (XXVII)	The role of participation and social justice in achieving sustainable development

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

General Assembly resolutions

64/191	External debt sustainability and development
64/193	Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)
64/255	Improving global road safety
65/10	Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
66/260	Improving global road safety
67/198	External debt sustainability and development
67/199	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order
67/289	The United Nations in global economic governance

Economic and Social Council resolution

2013/44	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

296 (XXVI)	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals
303 (XXVII)	Towards enhancing the macroeconomic policy in ESCWA member countries
313 (XXVII)	Frequency of sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

General Assembly resolutions

60/252	World Summit on Information Society
66/121	Policies and programmes involving youth
66/211	Science and technology for development
67/113	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
67/195	Information and communications technology for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2009/8	Science and technology for development
2010/5	Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre
2013/6	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
2013/9	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

294 (XXVI)	Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre
306 (XXVII)	Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and sustaining efforts in the Arabic domain names field

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2010/38	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
2011/24	Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

276 (XXIV)	Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region
283 (XXV)	ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
286 (XXV)	Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
287 (XXV)	Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking
297 (XXVI)	Arab MDG monitor for societal progress

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

66/128	Violence against women migrant workers
66/129	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
66/130	Women and political participation
66/131	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
66/285	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
67/144	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
67/148	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2013/17	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

General Assembly resolutions

67/86	Assistance to the Palestinian people
67/158	The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
67/229	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2013/8	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan
2013/23	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

271 (XXIV)	Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development
282 (XXV)	Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries
292 (XXVI)	Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings
296 (XXVI)	Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals

Security Council resolution

1947 (2010)	Post-conflict peacebuilding